GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:478
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2003
TELEPHONE CONNECTION TO VILLAGE PANCHAYAT
K. ASUNGBA SANGTAM

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the target for providing telephone connection in every village panchayat by the year 2002-could not be achieved in the North-East Region;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be achieved?

Answer

THE MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND DISINVESTMENT (ARUN SHOURIE)

(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STA QUESTION NO. 478 FOR 23RD APRIL, 2003 REGARDING TELEPHONE CONNECTION TO VILLAGE PANCHAYAT.

DOT had a target of providing Telecom Facilities in all the villages by providing Village Public Telephones (VPTs) by the year 2002. Village Panchayats also get covered under this scheme. This target in the North-Eastern Region (NER) could not be achieved mainly due to following reasons:-

(i) NE Region is predominantly hilly and inaccessible, covered with forests and affected by insurgency. These features necessitate the use of technologies like Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) and Satellite for providing Village Public Telephones.

(ii) Permission to commission WLL systems in North East Region could not be given by the Government earlier due to security reasons. Permission was accorded in the last week of August, 2002. In the mean time part of WLL equipment was diverted to other needy circles.

(iii) About 5440 VPTs to be provided on satellite could not be provided as the tender was cancelled. The tender had to be cancelled as none of the bidders complied with the technical specifications.

Subject to availability of funds, it is targeted to cover all the inhabited villages including Village Panchayats of North-East Region during the year 2003-04.